EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT A

JEFFREY S. BURG, ESQ.

Employment Law Attorney and Counselor 16291 W. 14 Mile Road, Ste. 24 Beverly Hills, MI 48025

TELEPHONE: 248.227-5027

FACSIMILE: 248.856.1258 JBURG@COMCAST.NET

JEFFREY S. BURG

March 5, 2021

CE Power of Cincinnati, OH 4040 Rev Drive Cincinnati, OH 45232

AEP CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS 1 Riverside Plaza Columbus, OH, USA 43215-2372

RE:

summons and complaint

Nelson v CE Power/AEP

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find summons and complaint in Nelson v CE Power and AEP.

Very truly yours,

effred Bu

Attorney for G. Nelson

Enc

Case 1:21-cv-00288-JTN-RSK ECF No. 1-1, PageID.6 Filed 03/31/21 Page 3 of 19

Approved, SCAO	Original - Court 1st copy - Defendant		2nd copy - Plaintiff 3rd copy - Return	
STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY PROBATE Court address	SUMMONS		CASE NO. 21-000000-CD	
60296M, 62, Cassopolis, MI 49031			Court telephone no. (269) 445-4412	
Plaintiff's name(s), address(es), and telephone no GREGORY NELSON	v	Defendant's name(s), add CE Power of Cincinna 4040 Rev Drive Cincinnati, OH 45232	•	
Plaintiff's attorney, bar no., address, and telephor LAW OFFICES JEFFREY S. BURG, ESQ Jeffrey S. Burg, Esq. (P38381) 16291 W. 14 Mile Road, Ste. 24 Beverly Hills, MI 48025 (248) 227-5027 telephone 248_856_1258 for Instructions: Check the items below that apply to	JAN 19202 CASS COUNTY C MONIÇA MCMICH	ERK IAEL	the court clerk along with your complaint and	
Domestic Relations Case There are no pending or resolved cafamily members of the person(s) who There is one or more pending or resolved the family or family members of the person (s) who confidential case inventory (form MC It is unknown if there are pending or the family or family members of the pending or	ses within the jurisdiction of the are the subject of the completed cases within the jurisdiction of the completed cases within the jurisdiction of the subject 21) listing those cases. The resolved cases within the jurisdiction of the subject of	completed by the court cleans are family division of the family division of the family division the complaint. I has adiction of the family of the complaint.	erk. The circuit court involving the family or sion of the circuit court involving ave separately filed a completed division of the circuit court involving	
 ☐ This is a business case in which all c ☐ MDHHS and a contracted health plan the complaint will be provided to MDI ☑ There is no other pending or resolved complaint. ☐ A civil action between these parties c 	n may have a right to recover HHS and (if applicable) the coduction arising out of the	expenses in this case ntracted health plan same transaction or	e. I certify that notice and a copy of in accordance with MCL 400.106(4). occurrence as alleged in the	
been previously filed in this cour	s, []		Court, where	
it was given case number	and assigne	d to Judge		
The action remains is no long	ger pending.			
Summons section completed by court clerk.	SUMMONS			
NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT: In the 1. You are being sued. 2. YOU HAVE 21 DAYS after receiving serve a copy on the other party or talk served outside this state). 3. If you do not answer or take other acceptance demanded in the complaint. 4. If you require special accommodation to help you fully participate in court purpose the property of the prop	this summons and a copy of the cother lawful action with the time allowed, just to use the court because of roceedings, please contact the	ne complaint to file a he court (28 days if y udgment may be ente a disability or if you n	written answer with the court and you were served by mail or you were ered against you for the relief equire a foreign language interpreter	

STATE OF MICHIGAN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF CASS

GREGORY NELSON,

Honorable Susan L. Dobrich Case No.: 31-000000-CD

Plaintiff.

٧.

CE Power of Cincinnati, OH

FILED

and

JAN 1 9 2021

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER,

CASS COUNTY CLERK MONICA MCMICHAEL.

Defendants.

LAW OFFICES JEFFREY S. BURG, ESQ.
Jeffrey S. Burg, Esq. (P38381)
Attorney for Plaintiff
16291 W. 14 Mile Road, Ste. 24
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
(248) 227-5027 telephone
248-856-1258 fax
Jburg@comcast.net

There is no other pending or resolved civil action arising out of the transaction or occurrence alleged in this complaint.

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY

Now comes Plaintiff, Gregory Nelson, by his attorney, Law Offices Jeffrey

S. Burg, Esq., and for his complaint against Defendants states as follows:

Jurisdiction and Parties

- This is an action claiming race discrimination and age discrimination pursuant to the Michigan Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, MCL 37.2101 et seq.
- 2. Plaintiff is a resident of Illinois.
- 3. Defendant CE Power of Cincinnati, OH ("CE Power") is a foreign company doing continuous and systematic business in Michigan in Cass County.
- 4. Defendant American Electric Power ("AEP") is a foreign company doing continuous and systematic business in Michigan in Cass County.
- The events giving rise to this cause of action occurred in Cass County, Michigan.
- 6. The amount in controversy exceeds \$25,000, exclusive of interest, costs, and attorney fees.

Background Facts

- 7. Plaintiff is African-American and was 54 years old at the time of events in this case.
- 8. Plaintiff is a degreed and licensed engineer.
- 9. Defendant CE Power is a contract staffing company that assigns engineers to perform services for its clients.

- 10. Defendant AEP is an electric utility which provides service to multiple states, including Michigan.
- 11. Defendant AEP is a client of CE Power.
- 12. Plaintiff began employment with CE Power, and was assigned to Defendant AEP, in or about June, 2017.
- 13.At all times pertinent to this Complaint Plaintiff performed his job duties as engineer competently and conducted himself properly according to Defendants' employment policies.
- 14. In the course of Plaintiff's employment with Defendants, Plaintiff was subjected, by Defendants and their agents, to a hostile atmosphere of racially-motivated comments.
- 15.In the course of Plaintiff's employment with Defendants, Plaintiff was told by Defendants' management that "younger persons" are better suited for certain assignments.
- 16. On or about January 19, 2018, Plaintiff was discharged from his employment with Defendants, being told simply that Defendant AEP "did not want [Plaintiff] at [its] site anymore."
- 17. Plaintiff was the only African-American person, and either the oldest or one of the oldest persons in his work group, and asserts that race and age were factors in the decision to discharge his employment.
- 18. The reason given by Defendants for their discharge of Plaintiff were false and pretextual for race and age discrimination.

19. After discharging Plaintiff, Defendants replaced Plaintiff with a white person substantially younger than Plaintiff.

Count I – Violation of the Michigan Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, MCL 37.2101 et seq, based on Race

- 20. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the preceding paragraphs as though fully stated herein.
- 21.At all material times, Plaintiff was an employee, and Defendants were his employers, covered by and within the meaning of the Michigan Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act MCL 37.2101 et seq.
- 22. Plaintiff's race was at least one factor that made a difference in Defendants' decision to terminate Plaintiff from his employment.
- 23. Had Plaintiff been a person of a race different from African-American, he would not have been terminated.
- 24. Defendants, through their agents, representatives, and employees, were predisposed to discriminate on the basis of race and acted in accordance with that predisposition in deciding to terminate and in terminating Plaintiff's employment.
- 25. Defendants, through their agents, representatives, and employees, treated Plaintiff differently from similarly situated employees in the terms and conditions of employment, based on unlawful consideration of race.

- 26. The actions of Defendants were intentional, willful, malicious, wanton, and in reckless disregard for Plaintiff's rights and sensibilities.
- 27. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful actions, Plaintiff has sustained injuries and damages including, but not limited to, loss of earnings and earning capacity; loss of career opportunities; humiliation and embarrassment; mental and emotional distress; and loss of the ordinary pleasures of everyday life, including the right to pursue gainful occupation of choice.

PLAINTIFF THEREFORE REQUESTS that this court enter judgment against Defendants as follows:

- a. compensatory damages in whatever amount above \$25,000 he is found to be entitled;
- b. exemplary damages in whatever amount above \$25,000 he is found to be entitled;
- c. an award of lost wages and the value of fringe benefits, past and future;
- d. an award of interest, costs, and reasonable attorney fees;
- e. an order reinstating Plaintiff to the position he would have held if

 Defendants had not discriminated against him;
- f. an order awarding whatever other equitable relief appears appropriate at the time of final judgment.

Count II – Violation of the Michigan Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, MCL 37.2101 et seq Age Discrimination

- 28. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the preceding paragraphs as though fully stated herein.
- 29. Plaintiff's age was at least one factor that made a difference in Defendants' decision to terminate Plaintiff from his employment with Defendants.
- 30. Had Plaintiff been a younger person, he would not have been terminated.
- 31.Defendants, through their agents, representatives, and employees, were predisposed to discriminate on the basis of age and acted in accordance with that predisposition.
- 32. Defendants, through their agents, representatives, and employees, treated Plaintiff differently from similarly situated younger employees in the terms and conditions of employment, based on unlawful consideration of age.
- 33. Defendants' actions were intentional in disregard for Plaintiff's rights and sensibilities.
- 34. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful actions, Plaintiff has sustained injuries and damages including, but not limited to, loss of earnings and earning capacity; loss of career opportunities; humiliation and embarrassment; mental and emotional distress; and loss of the ordinary pleasures of everyday life, including the right to pursue gainful occupation of choice.

PLAINTIFF REQUESTS that this court enter judgment against Defendants as follows:

- a. compensatory damages in whatever amount above \$25,000 he is found to be entitled;
- b. exemplary damages in whatever amount above \$25,000 he is found to be entitled;
- c. an award of lost wages and the value of fringe benefits, past and future;
- d. an award of interest, costs, and reasonable attorney fees;
- e. an order reinstating Plaintiff to the position he would have held if Defendants had not discriminated:
- f. an order awarding whatever other equitable relief appears appropriate at the time of final judgment.
- g. compensatory damages in whatever amount above \$25,000 he is found to be entitled;
- h. exemplary damages in whatever amount above \$25,000 he is found to be entitled;
- i. an award of lost wages and the value of fringe benefits, past and future;
- j. an award of interest, costs, and reasonable attorney fees;
- k. an order reinstating Plaintiff to the position he would have held if
 Defendants had not discriminated against him;

 an order awarding whatever other equitable relief appears appropriate at the time of final judgment.

Respectfully submitted,

Law Offices Jeffrey S. Burg, Esq.

/s/ Jeffrey

Jeffrey S/Burg (P38381

Attorney for Plaintiff

Dated: January 19, 2021

DEMAND FOR JURY

Plaintiff demands a jury in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Law Offices Jeffrey S. Burg, Esq.

/s/ Jeffrey S. Bu

Jeffrey S. Burg (P38381)

Attorney for Plaintiff

Dated: January 19, 2021

		JIS Code: NHR
STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT	NOTICE OF HEARING WITH REMOTE PARTICIPATION	CASE NO. and JUDGE 21-020-CDO-S
CASS COUNTY		Honorable Susan L. Dobrich
Court address Law & Courts Building, 60296 M-62, Ca	ssopolis, MI 49031	Court telephone no. (269) 445-4452
Plaintiff's name, address, and telephone no. GREGORY NELSON	Defendant's name, ad CE POWER OF CII 4040 REV DRIVE V CINCINNATI, OH 4	
Plaintiff's attorney, bar no., address, and teleph Jeffrey S. Burg (P38381) Law Offices Jeffrey S. Burg Esq 16294 W 14 Mile Rd., Ste 24 Beverly Hills, MI 48025-3327 (248) 227-5027	one no. MAR 0 9 2021 SS COUNTY CLERK DNICA MCMICHAEL	bar no., address, and telephone no.
In the matter of		
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held Honorable Susan L. Dobrich Judge/Referee/Magistrate following purpose: Scheduling Conferent Technical instructions for participating Attached please find instructions for conruell as proper etiquette for the Court hea	Date and time using the remote access te	r Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 9:35 a.m., as
Please confirm that you can participate calling the court at (269) 445-4452 Telephone no.	e remotely by e-mailing the court at $\frac{\text{valeried}}{\text{E-mail add}}$	@cassco.org or dress
If you require accommodations to use help you fully participate in court proce	the court because of a disability, or if you re eedings, please contact the court immediate	quire a foreign language interpreter to ly to make arrangements.
 If you are having technical issues, pleas Find a space that will have as few inters The remote court hearing is a court pro required. The judge has control over the 	mote court hearing: program being used for the hearing, and test the se review any technical support provided by the pruptions as possible. If you will be using video, m ceeding and therefore an extension of the courtre proceedings and participants as if they were pro- hearing may only be used by you to participate in	orogram or application. ake sure there is good lighting. soom — appropriate conduct and attire is esent in the actual courtroom.
Approved, SCAO Form MC 506, Rev. 4/20 Page 1 of 1	Distribute form to: Court Plaintiff Defendant	

Copies as needed

ZOOM HEARING INSTRUCTIONS (CIVIL)

21-020-CD GREGORY NELSON V CE POWER OF CINCINNATI OH ET AL TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2021 @ 9:35 A.M. / SCHEDULING CONFERENCE

Being in a virtual hearing is the same as being at an in-person hearing—you are required to follow all the same Court rules and policies.

If you are unable to participate in the hearing by telephone or Zoom, you must immediately contact Valerie Clark by email at valeriec@cassco.org or by phone at (269)445-4419, and if you are not able to speak directly to her, leave a message with your name and a phone number that you can be reached at.

Court Rules and Policies

MAR 0 9 2021 CASS COUNTY CLERK MONIGATION OF THE MONIGATION OF THE

- 1. Prior to the hearing, proposed exhibits shall be discussed and exchanged. The MICHAEL exchange of exhibits shall follow the scheduling order.
- 2. Motions, such as Motions for Summary Disposition, shall follow the Court Rules, regarding attachments and pleadings.
- 3. Appropriate conduct and attire is required because this is a court hearing.
- 4. Remote participants must use a private and quiet room that will be free of interruptions.
- 5. Witnesses may only be in the same room as you during their testimony.
- 6. You may not record the hearing or take photographs during the hearing.
- 7. The Court has the right to terminate the proceeding and reschedule the matter to a date where the parties are required to appear in person, if a remote proceeding is not acceptable.
- 8. The Judge has the same authority to control the proceeding and the participants as if the hearing was occurring in-person in the Court room.
- 9. The name of the person participating in the hearing should be set up in Zoom so that the Court knows who is present for the Zoom hearing.
- 10. Prior to the hearing, each law firm should email Valerie Clark at valeriec@cassco.org and notify her of the name of the attorney(s) appearing at the Zoom hearing on behalf of the firm.

Technical Responsibilities of Participants

- 1. The Court does not provide technical assistance.
- Test your device and network before the scheduled hearing because the Court does not provide time during the hearing to troubleshoot technical problems. Directions to test your speaker/microphone and video can be found at: https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362313-How-Do-l-Test-My-Video-.
- 3. If you have technical problems with your equipment or want more information about Zoom, review their training and support materials at their website: https://zoom.us.

4. Remote participants should use a good LAN, Wi-Fi, or substantial LTE connection to ensure a quality call. **Note**: Use of a mobile device may incur cellular carrier charges which are the responsibility of the remote participant.

To Connect to the Remote Hearing Room (Zoom Meeting ID: 970 6791 8656, Password: (031550)

If using a <u>Windows-based desktop or laptop</u>: Go to the Zoom Website at: htps://zoom.us. Click on "Join a Meeting" in the upper right corner. Enter Meeting ID and click on the blue "Join" button and then enter the Password above.

If using an <u>Apple or Android tablet or phone</u>: Install the Zoom App from the Apple or Android Store prior to the hearing. On the day and time of the hearing, open the Zoom app and join using the Meeting ID and Password above.

If you do not have a computer, smartphone, or tablet, you can call into the meeting using a <u>telephone</u>. To call into the hearing: Call (646)876-9923 or (669)900-6833 and join using the Meeting ID and Password.

* Once you are connected to the Zoom Meeting Room, you may be placed in a Waiting Room. Please remain available through the Waiting Room until your case is called. Once your case is ready to be called, you will be admitted into the Zoom Meeting Room. This assures the parties in the prior hearing privacy.

Case 1:21-cv-00288-JTN-RSK ECF No. 1-1, PageID.18 Filed 03/31/21 Page 15 of 19

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROOF OF SERVICE AND CASE NO. NOTICE TO APPEAR 21-000020-CD 43RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Mailing Date: 3/31/21

Court Address CASS COUNTY LAW & COURTS BUILDING 60296 M-62 CASSOPOLIS MI 49031

YOU ARE DIRECTED TO APPEAR AT:

The court address above, CASS COUNTY FAMILY COURT

HON. SUSAN L. DOBRICH COURTESY COPY

Plaintiff GREGORY NELSON Defendant

CE POWER OF CINCINNATI OH

FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSE:

V

DATE - JUNE 1, 2021 1. ON - TUESDAY FOR PRE-TRIAL HEARING

TIME -9:00AM EVT

SCHEDULING CONFERENCE (PLEASE HAVE YOUR CALENDAR AVAILABLE) (ADJOURNED FROM 3/30/2021)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN SENT TO:

JEFFREY S. BURG, 16291 W 14 MILE RD, BEVERLY HILLS RICHARD WILLIAM WARREN JR., 150 W JEFFERSON AVE, DETROIT BARBARA ANN MOORE, 277 S ROSE ST, KALAMAZOO

PARTY SENT P 001 D 001 IP001 -

I CERTIFY THE ABOVE PARTIES WERE SERVED:

1.BY ORDINARY MAIL 2.PERSONALLY 3.BY ATTORNEY MAILBOX 4.BY E-MAIL (MCR 2.107(C)(4))

Clerk/Assignment Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN

CASE NO. and JUDGE

JIS Code: NHR

	JUDICIAL DISTRICT	NOTICE OF HEARING WITH REMOTE PARTICIPATION		21-020-CD-S	
43rd CASS	JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY			Honorable Susan L. Dobrich	
Court address Law & Courts	Building, 60296 M-62, Ca	ssopolis, MI 49031			Court telephone no. (269) 445-4452
Plaintiff's name, address, and telephone no. GREGORY NELSON		v	Defendant's name, add CE POWER OF CIN 4040 REV DRIVE CINCINNATI, OH 45		
Plaintiff's attorney, bar no., address, and telephone no. Jeffrey S. Burg (P38381) Law Offices Jeffrey S. Burg Esq 16294 W 14 Mile Rd., Ste 24 Beverly Hills, MI 48025-3327 (248) 227-5027		one no.	Defendant's attorney, bar no., address, and telephor Richard Warren (P63123) Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone P.L.C. 150 W. Jefferson Ave., Ste. 2500 Detroit, MI 48226 (313) 963-5420		phone no.
In the matter	r of				
Honorable Su Judge/Referee/I following pur Technical ins	CE: A hearing will be held Isan L. Dobrich Magistrate Pose: Scheduling Confer Structions for participating ase find instructions for conference to the Court hearing	Date and time using tence (adjourned from 3 in the remote hearing: necting to the ZOOM hearing	he remote access ted /30/2021) ng that is scheduled for	Tuesday, June 1, 202	below, for the
Please confine calling the co	rm that you can participal ourt at (269) 445-4452 Telephone no.	te remotely by e-mailing	the court at Valeriec@ E-mail add	@cassco.org dress	or
	e accommodations to use participate in court proc				
- Download	elines for participation in a re and become familiar with th naving technical issues, plea	e program being used for t			

- Find a space that will have as few interruptions as possible. If you will be using video, make sure there is good lighting.
- The remote court hearing is a court proceeding and therefore an extension of the courtroom appropriate conduct and attire is required. The judge has control over the proceedings and participants as if they were present in the actual courtroom.
- The information on this form to join the hearing may only be used by you to participate in the hearing.

Approved, SCAO Form MC 506, Rev. 4/20 Page 1 of 1

Distribute form to: Court Plaintiff Defendant Copies as needed **ZOOM HEARING INSTRUCTIONS (CIVIL)**

21-020-CD GREGORY NELSON V CE POWER OF CINCINNATI OH ET AL TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021 @ 9:00 A.M. / SCHEDULING CONFERENCE (ADJOURNED FROM 3/30/2021)

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Approved, SCAO JIS CODE: POM STATE OF MICHIGAN CASE NO. 21-020-CD-S JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROOF OF MAILING 43rd JUDICIAL CIRCUIT Honorable Susan L. Dobrich CASS COUNTYPROBATE Court address Court telephone no. Law & Courts Building, 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031 (269) 445-4452 Plaintiff(s) Defendant(s) **GREGORY NELSON** CE POWER OF CINCINNATI OH et al 4040 REV DRIVE CINCINNATI, OH 45232 Juvenile In the matter of Probate In the matter of On the date below I sent by first-class mail a copy of Notice of Hearing with Remote Participation and Zoom Instructions to: List names and addresses. Jeffrey S. Burg (P38381) Law Offices Jeffrey S. Burg Esq 16294 W 14 Mile Rd., Ste 24 Beverly Hills, MI 48025-3327 (248) 227-5027 jburg@comcast.net Attorney for Plaintiff Richard Warren (P63123) Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone P.L.C. 150 W. Jefferson Ave., Ste. 2500 Detroit, MI 48226 (313) 963-5420 Warren@millercanfield.com Attorney for Defendant 1 Barbara A. Moore (P83123) 277 S. Rose Street, Suite 5000 Kalamazoo, MI 49007 (269) 381-7030 Mooreb@millercanfield.com Attorney for Defendant 1 **AEP Corporate Headquarters** 1 River Plaza Columbus, OH 43215-2372 Pro Per I declare that the statements above are true to the best of my information, knowledge, and belief. Signature Valerie Clark

Name (type or print)